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Letter dated 28 July 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

With reference to my letters to you dated 22 July 2008 (S/2008/478) and 25 July 2008 (S/2008/490) regarding Thailand-Cambodia relations, I wish to take this opportunity to inform you about the latest progress in the bilateral consultative process between the two countries.

1. Pursuant to the bilateral discussions that took place between Thailand and Cambodia under the framework of the General Border Committee in Sa Kaeo Province of Thailand on 21 July 2008, and the telephone conversation between the Prime Minister of Thailand and the Prime Minister of Cambodia on 24 July 2008, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Thailand and Cambodia met in Siem Reap Province of Cambodia on 28 July 2008. The two Ministers had a cordial and frank discussion on issues of common concern in the spirit of good-neighbourliness and the spirit of ASEAN solidarity. At the end of the meeting, both sides agreed to recommend the following to their respective Governments:

- Both countries should exercise the utmost restraint so that the current problem will be settled through peaceful means, using existing bilateral mechanisms, including the Foreign Ministers' meeting and the Thailand-Cambodia Joint Commission on Demarcation for Land Boundary which was set up by the 2000 Memorandum of Understanding on the Survey and Demarcation of Land Boundary.
- Both sides agreed to undertake the following provisional arrangement pending survey and demarcation by the Joint Boundary Commission:
    (1) De-mining of the area to be surveyed and demarcated by the Joint Boundary Commission in a concerted manner;
    (2) Setting up of a Temporary Coordinating Task Force comprising the relevant agencies from both sides to address problems related to the area, including the Pagoda;
    (3) Redeploying both sides' respective troops out of the "Keo Sikha Kiri Svara" Pagoda, the area surrounding the Pagoda, and the Temple of Preah Vihear.

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- This arrangement shall be without prejudice to the rights of both sides regarding the survey and demarcation within the framework of the Joint Boundary Commission and their legal positions.

- Both sides agreed to discuss other matters not yet agreed upon during this meeting at the next Foreign Ministers' meeting.

2. The outcome of the said Foreign Ministers' meeting firmly underlines the common will and determination of both Thailand and Cambodia, neighbours for life and members of the ASEAN family, to move ahead within the framework of the bilateral consultative process with a view to arriving at a mutually satisfactory conclusion for the benefit of our two countries and peoples.

I have the honour to request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Don **Pramudwinai**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of Thailand
to the United Nations